

CLAIMS

1 1. A method for providing media information to a user via an interactive media services
2 client device coupled to a programmable media services server device, said method
3 comprising steps of:

4 presenting an interactive media guide having an indexing prompt to said user;
5 receiving user input identifying said indexing prompt; and
6 providing the user with media titles corresponding to an indexing parameter
7 associated with said indexing prompt.

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2. A method for providing media information to a user via an interactive media services client device coupled to a programmable media services server device, said method comprising steps of:
 - presenting an interactive media guide having an indexing prompt to said user;
 - receiving user input identifying said indexing prompt; and
 - providing the user with media titles corresponding to an indexing parameter associated with said indexing prompt.
3. The method of claim 1, wherein the indexing parameter is selected from a group consisting of:
 - an alphanumeric character, a plurality of alphanumeric characters, a year, a plurality of years, a rating, a plurality of ratings.
4. The method of claim 1, wherein the media titles are indexed by an indexing characteristic selected from a group consisting of:
 - title name, director name, actor name, year of release, title rating, critic rating.
5. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of:
receiving user input identifying an indexing characteristic by which the media titles are indexed
6. The method of claim 5, wherein the media titles are ordered based on both the user identified characteristic and the user identified indexing parameter.
7. The method of claim 1, wherein user input is initiated by the user pressing an arrow button on a remote control device.
8. The method of claim 1, wherein said interactive media guide includes a plurality of indexing prompts and a plurality of media titles.
9. The method of claim 8, wherein a first indexing prompt and a first media title associated with said first indexing prompt are highlighted.

1 10. The method of claim 9, further comprising the step of:
2 highlighting a second media title associated with a second
3 indexing prompt in response to receiving user input designating said
4 second indexing prompt to be highlighted.

1 11. The method of claim 9, further comprising the step of:
2 highlighting a second indexing prompt associated with a second media title in
3 response to receiving user input designating said second media title to be
4 highlighted.

1 12. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of:
2 receiving input from a system operator for determining a feature of an indexing
3 prompt.

1 13. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of:
2 receiving input from a system operator for determining a feature of an indexing
3 parameter.

1 14. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of:
2 receiving input from a system operator for determining a feature of the media
3 titles.

1 15. The method of claim 1, wherein only media titles belonging to a sub-list of media titles
2 are provided to the user.

1 16. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of:
2 charging the user a fee in connection with the provision of indexing functionality.

17. An interactive media services client device for providing media information to a user comprising:
 - memory for storing data;
 - an indexing prompt and a media title stored in said memory, wherein said media title corresponds to an indexing parameter identified by said indexing prompt; and
 - a processor configured to cause said media title corresponding to said indexing parameter to be displayed on a viewing device in response to user input identifying said indexing prompt.
18. The client device of claim 17, wherein only media titles belonging to a sub-list of media titles are provided to the user.
19. The interactive media services client device of claim 17, wherein the indexing parameter is selected from a group consisting of:
 - an alphanumeric character, a plurality of alphanumeric characters, a year, a plurality of years, a rating, a plurality of ratings.
20. The interactive media services client device of claim 17, wherein the media titles are indexed by an indexing characteristic selected from a group consisting of:
 - title name, director name, actor name, year of release, title rating, and critic rating.
21. The interactive media services client device of claim 17, further comprising:
 - receiving user input identifying an indexing characteristic by which the media titles are indexed.
22. The interactive media services client device of claim 21, wherein the media titles are ordered based on both the user identified characteristic and the user identified indexing parameter.
23. The interactive media services client device of claim 17, wherein user input is initiated by the user pressing an arrow button on a remote control device.
24. The interactive media services client device of claim 17, wherein said interactive media guide includes a plurality of indexing prompts and a plurality of media titles.

1 25. The interactive media services client device of claim 24, wherein a first indexing prompt
2 and a first media title associated with said first indexing prompt are highlighted.

1 26. The interactive media services client device of claim 25, wherein a second media title
2 associated with a second indexing prompt is highlighted in response to the client device
3 receiving user input designating said second indexing prompt to be highlighted.

1 27. The interactive media services client device of claim 25, wherein a second indexing
2 prompt associated with a second media title is highlighted in response to the client device
3 receiving user input designating said second media title to be highlighted.

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28. An interactive media services client device for providing media to a user comprising:
 - means for presenting an interactive media guide having an indexing prompt to said user;
 - means for receiving user input identifying said indexing prompt; and
 - means for providing the user with media titles corresponding to an indexing parameter associated with said indexing prompt.
29. The client device of claim 28, wherein only media titles belonging to a sub-list of media titles are provided to the user.
30. The interactive media services client device of claim 28, wherein the indexing parameter is selected from a group consisting of:
 - an alphanumeric character, a plurality of alphanumeric characters, a year, a plurality of years, a rating, a plurality of ratings.
31. The interactive media services client device of claim 28, wherein the media titles are indexed by an indexing characteristic selected from a group consisting of:
 - title name, director name, actor name, year of release, title rating, critic rating.
32. The interactive media services client device of claim 28, further comprising:
 - receiving user input identifying an indexing characteristic by which the media titles are indexed.
33. The interactive media services client device of claim 32, wherein the media titles are ordered based on both the user identified characteristic and the user identified indexing parameter.
34. The interactive media services client device of claim 28, wherein user input is initiated by the user pressing an arrow button on a remote control device.
35. The interactive media services client device of claim 28, wherein said interactive media guide includes a plurality of indexing prompts and a plurality of media titles.
36. The interactive media services client device of claim 35, wherein a first indexing prompt and a first media title associated with said first indexing prompt are highlighted.

- 1 37. The interactive media services client device of claim 36, wherein a second media title
2 associated with a second indexing prompt is highlighted in response to the client device
3 receiving user input designating said second indexing prompt to be highlighted.

- 1 38. The interactive media services client device of claim 36, wherein a second indexing
2 prompt associated with a second media title is highlighted in response to the client device
3 receiving user input designating said second media title to be highlighted

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